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## Breaking News

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# Honda calls for \$7 billion to fight bioterrorism

The U.S. should spend as much as \$7 billion to protect local communities against acts of bioterrorism, says U.S. Rep. Mike Honda, D-San Jose.

A co-sponsor of the legislation to spend the money, Mr. Honda says part of it would go toward high-tech protections including \$275 million for developing and deploying screening hardware, software, computers and training to support biometric technology for law enforcement; \$149 million for implementing biometric scanning techniques at border checkpoints along with developing and deploying scanning technology capable of detecting explosive devices, biological and chemical contaminants; and \$250 million for developing and deploying faster scanning technologies, implementing improved mail tracking abilities to track suspicious packages to their source, and investigating procedures to treat mail and mitigate threats posed by contaminated mail.

Mr. Honda says that incorporating new technologies, such as biometric applications that verify a person's identity by retinal scan, voice or hand recognition, can secure airports and other locations without resorting to racial profiling or subjective bias.

"Technologies that verify our identity by analyzing human features which are unique to each of us are by their nature are racially and ethnically neutral," he says. "By empowering law enforcement with biometric technology we can protect our airports and critical infrastructure in a more efficient and reliable manner and give a boost to the technology sector of our economy while protecting the civil rights of all Americans."



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